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35th S.D. UPDATE: POLLING SHOWS A TIGHT RACE.

Editor's note: The Mar. 14th special election to replace Marian Bergeson in the State Senate's 35th District is down to just one day. All signs point to a *very close race*. Here is CALPEEK's final report & analysis...

...According to the *Calif. Target Book*, a fairly recent independent poll shows Assemblywoman Doris Allen (R-Cypress) leading both her main GOP rivals, former Assemblyman Gil Ferguson of Newport Beach and current Assemblyman Ross Johnson of Irvine. Allen has 25%, Ferguson 19%, while Johnson is at 13%, but is closing. And yet another poll which CALPEEK was made aware of showed the race even closer: Allen 19%, Ferguson 15% and Johnson 14%. In a close race, it's Johnson's **massive war chest** of about \$141,189 (as of 3/1) that could make a difference. Allen and Ferguson are nowhere close to Johnson in terms of money. The race is still one of the nastiest in Orange Co., with mud being thrown by Ferguson and Johnson at one another, with Allen drawing only moderate fire --- which leads a growing number to think that Allen may have a shot at taking this special...

...But the key, according to sources, are the *absentee voter ballots*. On Mar. 7, the last day to request AV ballots, there were 40,849 requests. Of that number, 17,387 AV ballots had already been voted. At this point the major GOP candidates are **not** the major source in generating requests for AV ballots, despite claims to the contrary. According to the Orange Co. Registrar's office, about 77% of all requests for AV ballots have come from the Official O.C. Sample Ballot (with the AV application on the back page). Only about 7.9% of AV ballot requests have been generated by the candidates, while another 4,706 AV ballots were from permanent AV voters...

...Bottomline: Despite all that you've read and heard,

with a 12-15% turnout, this race could be won by any of the top three candidates. **A total toss up.** FYI: if Ferguson should win, chalk one up for Rush Limbaugh. He is Gil's honorary campaign chair and Ferguson is letting all the true believers know this. Stay tuned...

WILSON'S PROBLEM: LT. GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS.

Editor's note: For those Demos who may have thought Gray Davis was about to enter political oblivion when he decided to run for Lt. Governor in 1993, they were wrong. Instead of being forgotten, Davis' name regularly appears in news stories --- all dealing with the same subject: a likely GOP White House run by Gov. Pete Wilson. Here's our update & analysis...

...Odds are very high that Wilson will soon announce that he is officially exploring his presidential options. And the odds are also fairly good that Wilson and Lt. Gov. Gray Davis(D) have by this time reached some kind of accord/agreement. With Wilson being on the campaign trail, Davis will become the acting Governor with increasing frequency. This doesn't sit well with some Republicans, especially *hardline conservatives*, who are outraged that Wilson would even consider turning over the daily chores of governing Calif. to Davis, the COS to former Demo Gov. Jerry Brown. FYI: the latest Field Poll shows that among GOPers, 51% approve of Wilson running, 34% disapprove. Among all voters Statewide, only 33% approve of a Wilson White House bid, while 51% disapprove...

...What are Republicans doing? A few trial balloons and even some legislation has been introduced, all dealing with an office that no one thought to be important in 1993. Assemblywoman Paula Boland(R-Northridge) has introduced ACA 6, which would simply abolish the office of LG and make the AG second in line to the governor. NO other State has anything like this. In

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those 10 States which have no LG, the second in line to the governor is the Secretary of State. Western States that have such arrangements include Arizona, Wyoming and Oregon. Boland's ACA 6 needs a 2/3rd vote, so odds aren't real good for her bill. GOP types also have floated the idea that anytime there is a vacancy in the governorship, that a special election should be held. Again, that's very political and probably wouldn't fly...

...The best idea put forth on the subject of the LG's office is from State Sen. Leroy Greene(D-Sacto), who has introduced SCA 12. It's real simple: beginning in 1998, it requires the governor & lieutenant governor to run as a team. It's not the first time this idea has been floated. Former State Sen. Barry Keene(D) proposed such a law in the early 1980s. And then in 1989, former Gov. George Deukmejian(R) proposed the same thing, noting at the time that some 22 other States required the LG to run with the governor...

...But it never happened, partly because CA voters have never been thrilled with the linkage. Pollster Mervin Field did a survey on this subject back then and State-wide, 56% wanted the two candidates (Gov. & LG) to run separately, while 37% said they should run as a team and another 7% had no opinion...

...P.S. Gov. Deukmejian says that he had to turn down a VP offer from George Bush in 1988 because there was a Demo LG (McCarthy). Would Wilson follow The Duke's lead? Don't bet your first born. Stay tuned...

U.S. SEN. GRAMM TO ADDRESS CA LINCOLN CLUBS.
GOP presidential candidate Phil Gramm(R-Texas) will address members of the L.A. & San Gabriel Valley chpts. of the CA Lincoln Clubs, 12 noon, Mar. 17, at the Hotel Inter-Continental, downtown L.A. For info and RSVPs, call Natalie Blanning or Sheila McNichols at (818)249-4205...

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HORCHER RECALL QUALIFIES FOR MAY 16 BALLOT.

Editor's note: It may have taken a little longer than originally planned, but the drive to recall 60th A.D. Assemblyman Paul Horcher(I-Diamond Bar) has now qualified for the ballot. The recall is set for May 16th. Here is CALPEEK's update & analysis...

...When Horcher bolted from the GOP to support Demo Willie Brown for Speaker over Republican Jim Brulte on Dec. 5th, there was little doubt what would eventually happen. The level of GOP hostility toward Horcher was overwhelming. And on Mar. 2nd, the L.A. Co. Registrar reported to CA Sec. of State Bill Jones that out of 20,500 signatures submitted, 92.7% were valid and more than enough to qualify the recall effort. Within hours Gov. Pete Wilson set the recall for May 16th...

...And once the recall date was set, several GOP candidates immediately jumped into the race. Former L.A. Co. Sup. Pete Schabarum was NOT one of them and that doesn't upset some in the 60th A.D., who for whatever reasons, don't especially like him...

...With Schabarum out, there are two of the leading contenders. Community college trustee Barbara Stone has backing from new State Tres. Matt Fong, O.C. Sup. Marian Bergeson, L.A. Co. Sup. Mike Antonovich and local GOPers such as Forrest Tennant, Jim Lloyd and Don Knabe. The other major candidate is Diamond Bar Councilman Gary Miller, who ran unsuccessfully against Richard Mountjoy for the 29th S.D. seat last year. Sources tell CALPEEK that Mountjoy may endorse Stone because he absolutely hates Miller. Republicans associated with GOP Assembly Leader Jim Brulte are backing Miller. And in fact Brulte has told sources in Sacto that Miller intends to spend upwards of \$500,000 in this race. But the rivalry between the various GOP groups could give Horcher a slim shot at beating the recall --- that's the fear of some GOP insiders. Other GOPers who have taken out papers include Royal Meservy of Whittier; Thomas P. Olson of Roland Heights; and Michael Touhey of West Covina. No Demos are in this field as yet and filing closed after CALPEEK's deadline. We'll run the whole list in next week's newsletter...

...So as of now, it would appear that the Horcher Recall Cmt.'s main function is over --- that was to qualify

the recall. It will now be up to the candidates seeking to replace Horcher to carry the ball. The recall cmt. is still in a deficit position, owing about \$75,000, but sources hope the CA Republican Party will step in to pay off the debt. The CRP's Vice Chair, Michael Schroeder, is the official chair of the Recall Cmt. The CRP over the past several months has been using Horcher as a tool for raising money, but so far none of the funds raised has gone into the recall campaign, angering many GOP activists in the 60th A.D. And there is some anger aimed at Assembly Republicans in general for not being more active in the recall. As one source told CALPEEK, "Ross Johnson's 35th S.D. senate race seems to have a higher priority than the Horcher recall."...

...FYI: The big debate, featuring 60th A.D. recall candidates, will be hosted by the CA Lincoln Club, 7:30 a.m. breakfast, Mar. 17, Industry Hills Sheraton. For info and RSVPs, call Natalie Blanning or Sheila McNichols at (818)249-4205. Stay tuned...

THE WHITE HOUSE RUN: NEW SURVEY FOR CALIF.

Editor's note: Pollster Mervin Field has just released a new Presidential poll. Here's our report..

...As most CALPEEK readers are aware, Gov. Pete Wilson(R) is very close to making an announcement concerning his future political plans. Odds are better than 80/20 that he'll announce that he's forming an exploratory presidential committee. But there is a question, based upon this most current Field Poll, as to whether Gov. Pete can carry Calif.'s ***winner-take-all*** Mar. 26, 1996, GOP primary, where 163 delegates are up for grabs. Here's the way the latest Field Poll looks. (Feb. 23-Mar. 1), 304 GOP, 333 Demos and 88 other registered Calif. voters:

GOP Presidential Primary

Bob Dole	48%
Pete Wilson	22%
Phil Gramm	11%
Lamar Alexander	3%
Pat Buchanan	2%
Bob Dornan	1%
Arlen Specter	1%
Richard Lugar	-
Undecided	12%

...The survey also included a sample with former Gen. Colin Powell running in the GOP primary. Powell comes in 3rd and gets 15%, mostly at the expense of Dole & Wilson. The new Field survey also matches GOP presidential types against President Bill Clinton. Here's how some of these matches look:

Dole 49%	Clinton 44%	Und. 7%
Clinton 48%	Wilson 45%	Und. 7%
Clinton 48%	Gramm 38%	Und. 14%

...And Clinton really cloubers Alexander, Buchanan, Spector, Lugar and Dornan. Field also did a 3-way poll, with Powell as the ***independent***. Dole wins his 3-way contest; Clinton wins against Wilson, Gramm, Spector, Lugar or Dornan with Powell in the race; Powell beats Clinton when they face either Alexander or Buchanan. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '96: ADDING MORE NAMES TO THE MIX.

Editor's note: Here's another update on who's in and who's out for House & Legislative races in 1996...

- **13th S.D.** - Add the name of Demo Tom Hayes (not to be confused with the former State Treasurer) to the list of candidates looking at Al Alquist's senate seat. He's Jim Morgan's top political guy at Applied Materials in the Silicon Valley and is a very active Demo with loads of clout & contacts. P.S. Sources report that Assemblyman John Vasconcellos(D-San Jose) is very close to a decision in this race and it looks like he'll GO...

- **5th S.D.** - Demo State Sen. Pat Johnston of Stockton is probably anticipating a challenge from hardline conservative Assemblyman Larry Bowler of Sacto, but Bowler *may* have some competition from another hardliner, Assemblyman David Knowles. True, Knowles' Placerville district is not nested in the 5th, but before the 1992 reapportionment, he used to represent a part of the 5th --- so he can't be ruled out...

- **20th C.D.** - Look for Fresno Councilman Bob Lung to jump into the '96 battle for congress with incumbent U.S. Rep. Cal Dooley(D-Visalia) and GOP Assemblyman Trice Harvey of Bakersfield. Lung would run as an independent. CALPEEK sources describe him as pro-Labor, pro-Life and pro-Gun...

CRA HOLDS 62nd ANNUAL CONVENTION MAR. 24-26.

The CA Republican Assembly(CRA), one of the GOP's oldest and largest grassroots organization, will hold its 62nd annual convention Mar. 24-26 at San Diego's Mission Valley Hilton Hotel. For info (909)468-0980...

CALPEEK's INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

● **No More Campaign Ambushes** - In an effort to curb those last minute, mega-buck surprise attacks, Demo Assemblywoman Jackie Speier(D-San Mateo) has introduced AB 1043. If approved and signed into law, it would **ban** contributions of more than \$10,000 by any individual, group, PAC etc., during the last 13 days of Statewide & Legislative campaigns. The bill also requires campaign consultants to register with the FPPC...

● **Young Republicans Push Madison** - Although she's not that well known outside conservative GOP circles, Allied Business PAC Exec. Director Danielle Madison is being urged to run for Assemblywoman Doris Allen's 67th A.D. seat, should it become vacant due to an Allen win in the upcoming 35th S.D. special. The "urging" is coming from the Young Republican Federation of CA. Very interesting...

● **LAPD's Chief on Hot Seat** - L.A. Police Chief Willie Williams is in a lot more trouble than the general public realizes. Yes, there have been negative stories about Williams in the media; and there has even been some speculation about his most recent "performance review" by the L.A. City Police Commission. CALPEEK sources say the review was mixed, with both positives & negatives. And now sources report that L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan would love to find Williams another job - perhaps in DC, with the help of his friend, Pres. Bill Clinton. Williams' contract expires in June of 1997. Know what date that is? It's when Riordan is up for reelection...

● **Mirror Mirror** - So who is the most famous judge in all the land? Why L.A. Sup. Court Judge Lance Ito, of O.J. Simpson trial fame. And guess what? He's up for reelection in 1996...

● **Call Him Councilman** - Demo political consult-

ant/pollster Alex Evans has been appointed to the City Council in Richmond. Evens, 34, will serve out the remaining 10 months of Jim Rogers' term and says he will seek election to a full term in November. Rogers was recently elected to the Contra Costa Co. Bd. of Supes...

● **The Name Game** - The CA Trial Lawyers Assn. (CTLA) is no more. The organization has officially changed its name to Consumer Attorneys of Calif. or CAOC. Why the name change? To more accurately reflect they type of trial work that these attorneys perform. Survey data showed the public confused between trial work done by criminal defense attorneys and consumer attorneys, who handle civil cases...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● NWPC/Calif. has reelected Jane Hasler Henick as president for the 1995-96 term. Also elected were Juliette Martinez of L.A., vp fundraising; Cindy O'Connor of Westlake Village, vp membership; Susan Romeo of La Canada, vp communications; Marion Goodman of Lafayette, vp education; and Susan Carrell of Santa Rosa, vp political action...

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